

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



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Adoption - Myth or reality?

Consent for the construction of Sovereign Harbour was granted way back in 1986, and work is still in progress. Most residents purchased their homes in the belief that the developments in which they would be living would be adopted.

Now, over twenty-one years since consent was granted, just a handful of developments to the east of Atlantic Drive have been adopted. The SHRA committee has worked very hard with council members and officers to progress this issue and, up to March, seemed to be making good progress. Since then, progress seems to have come to a halt.

In their election material, under the headline "Please adopt me", our current ward councillors wrote: "Sovereign LibDem campaigners are putting pressure on the Conservative controlled Town Council to do something about the scandal that means our paths and roads are shamefully neglected". Susan Morris is quoted as saying: "Sovereign Harbour should be all that the town has promised. That includes a seafront that begins amid the glory of historic Holywell finishes with equal elegance in the modern marina. I work in the tourism industry and I know how important this is to the local economy". Amen to that, but when can we expect progress?

The stumbling block has always been that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) will not adopt residential developments that can not be reached over adopted highway. On the North Harbour, the spinal highway is Pacific Drive and so pressure was put onto Carillion to offer

this road for adoption, thus releasing the cork from the bottle.

On 21st December, EBC Highways Manager, Graham Kemp, wrote to the SHRA as follows: "I am still hopeful that I will be able to place Pacific Drive onto maintenance in January which will enable a number of adoptions to proceed. January came and went. On 6th March, he wrote to tell us that the Part Two Section 38 Certificate had been issued which meant that Pacific Drive was now "a highway, forever open to the public". He concluded by saying: "The maintenance period will now commence, with Carillion remaining responsible for the day-to-day maintenance. We will now be able to progress the adoption of developments that have reached the end of the maintenance period."

Although not documented, at a meeting with council officers we had been led to believe that considering the extensive delays since developments were completed, the twelve month maintenance period would be reduced, and many adoptions would proceed immediately after Pacific Drive was placed on maintenance.

That, however, was in the run-up to an election. Now we're back in the real world.

We are very pleased that we didn't hold our breath! Current indications are that the adoption of residential developments will not take place until Pacific Drive is formally adopted. Given that remedial work will almost certainly be required at

the end of the maintenance period, this will mean that it will slip into the next financial year. Still, we've been robbed of our Council Tax for over twenty years, what difference will one more year make?

The situation on the South Harbour is much more puzzling. The spinal highway, Atlantic Drive, has been adopted for some time but, until recently, only a short section of Madeira Way, just enough to give access to the Southern Water pumping station, had been adopted.

In an e-mail to an Eastbourne County Councillor, Matthew Lock, Lead Councillor for Transport and Environment, helped to explain the problems. In this he stated:

"The South Harbour is less advanced in that there are 7 sites that have no Section 38 Agreement in place. These are areas that were originally owned by Westbury Homes, who had shown little desire to get the roads adopted. Now that the sites are owned by Persimmon Homes, there is a better prospect of adoptions moving forward and efforts are ongoing to facilitate the progression of the necessary Agreements. *The situation is complicated however, by the refusal of Southern Water to adopt foul and storm water systems, which are integral to the completion of the adoption process.*

The County Council's officers are continuing to engage in constructive discussion with all of the developers at Sovereign Harbour and Southern Water, with a view to progressively securing more road adoptions. *It is important to bear in mind that the pace of this process is heavily influenced by the developers' individual priorities and their spirit of co-operation with the County Council; the developers are not obliged to have their roads adopted as public highways, but I hope that you can convey the message that County Council staff are doing all they can to get the adoptions completed.*" Not a very encouraging situation.

What is very perplexing is that the walkways around the West Harbour, and the developments in Canary Quay

and Kingston Quay that feed into them, were suddenly adopted at the same time that Sovereign Harbour Ltd. sold off the marina operations to Premier Marinas.

As they say, "where there's a will, there's a way". This seems to reinforce the sentiments expressed by Councillor Lock.

The sad fact is that those council members and officers who brought the Sovereign Harbour concept into reality just didn't have the expertise or experience to manage a project of that magnitude, so they abdicated their responsibilities and allowed the developers to create a situation that the present incumbents are unwilling or unable to resolve.

That's why we need a Parish Council
(by Rick Runalls)

Waterlines readers will be aware of the petition being launched by SHRA to test and seek support for the formation of a Parish Council, and some of you took advantage of the first open meeting we organised to provide facts and answers to residents questions. We are sometimes asked why do we need such a Council when the SHRA committee are picking up the issues? The answer, quite simply, is, **'we are not enough!'**

As a group of volunteers we have achieved some useful landmarks and as you will see from the previous article we have done much to raise issues and drive them, but we have no formal authority to represent the Harbour. We have had elected representatives over the years who have had the authority, but failed to deliver what the Harbour needed to support a community. Our needs were put second to those of Eastbourne which benefited from the additional income we provided without returning anything to help us form our community. SHRA has been a catalyst for getting a fresh look taken at back-fitting social facilities, but let's be realistic – developers will not give something away without expecting to claw something back from the Harbour, and EBC may not necessarily see what the Harbour needs as its first priority when it comes to negotiations.

We are fed up with Sovereign Harbour's interests taking second place to the priorities of developers and the Council, and the one sure way of achieving a closer level of representation is from the formation of a Parish/Community Council with elected representatives who live on the Harbour and are answerable to its residents. SH is the home of about 10% of Eastbourne's population, but is not recognised as part of the town by many of Eastbourne's residents. This is probably not surprising considering the way the Council has allowed Harbour residents' interests to always take second place to the interests of the rest of the Town.

We are still a community without social infrastructure. Our children have no adequate play facilities because the Borough Council allowed developers to slide out of their responsibility to provide it on payment of a pittance. A community whose environment is polluted by dog waste and weeds. A conglomeration of developments whose residents pay money for the maintenance of common areas to management companies, some of which appear to consider themselves unaccountable. A community who has to pay for its own flood defences. A community whose one school is inadequate to service the requirements of the families that live here, and which is built on a landfill requiring gas monitoring and alarms within the school. The land was a generous donation from the developers that the Council presumably considered good enough for the Harbour.

We can't just sit back and listen to those in control continue to blame their predecessors. It's time for Sovereign Harbour to come of age and take more control of its own future, and **that's** why we need our own Parish Council.

Grumbles from the Crumbles

(A resident's view, by A W Ash)

As one approaching the foothills of late middle age it is a joy to sit on a summer's morning watching the boats come and go on the outer harbour. The sky is bluish, the sea is sparklingish,

the birds are fishing and the fish are splashing and the plants are reclaiming their unnatural habitat.

It's great living on the harbour. The natives are trying and succeeding in forging friendships and in the process are creating a community. How could it be better? Well here goes.

A bit of planning would have helped. After all the years of hot air blown about by the developers and successive councils and despite the best efforts of SHRA we are no further forward.

Where is the Medical Centre?

Where is the Community Centre? I don't mean a sippy little one. Where's the one that has sports facilities, a hall that seats more than the 200 currently allowed at The Haven School, incorporates meeting rooms, information centre, cafes, Internet cafes, workshop studios, function rooms, (not funktion rooms), and generally supports the community? Give us the land and about £10 million and don't laugh; the developers have had that for breakfast.

Where is the infrastructure?

The roads are unadopted apart from Atlantic Drive; with luck Pacific Drive might get adopted in 2008. Other roads don't join up. Why has the process of adoption stalled?

Who dreamed up the traffic system between the North and South Harbours, or rather who didn't?

The pumping systems for some of the drains are inadequate. The give away is in the scent.

What's happening to my money? I thought that giving to charity was a voluntary act, but obviously not when it is handed over to the registered charity we know as the Sovereign Harbour Trust. Why do we have to pay for the sea defences when no one else along the coast has to?

The Marina charges? Well OK, we want to live on a marina, but isn't it a commercial enterprise?

INVITATION

To **ALL** residents of Sovereign Harbour developments

You are invited to come and meet Hazelvine Limited, property managing agents on Saturday 6 October at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, from 9:00 to 1:30. If you are experiencing any property management, service charge or lease issues please drop in and discuss them over a cup of tea or coffee; we will have staff present from our management, accounts and legal departments who will be happy to discuss and advise on all general matters. If you have a specific problem, please bring a copy of relevant documents such as your lease, service charge estimate, accounts, Memorandum and Articles of Association etc. to help us advise. If possible, please let us or Waterlines know in advance what issue(s) you

want to discuss and if there is a lot of interest in a particular topic, we will arrange a pre-set time and advise you all accordingly. Parking issues for example affect most developments and would probably warrant a general discussion.

Please email: info@hazelvine.com or waterlines@shra.com or write to:

Waterlines, PO Box124, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN24 9AW

If you are a resident on a development we manage, please drop in if only to meet some of the staff you have spoken to on the phone, and put a face to a name.

We look forward to meeting you.

Management charges? Since when do freehold houses have to pay for the facilities only enjoyed by leasehold flats? Well, since we somehow signed away all human rights when we moved into Sovereign Quay.

I suppose it could be worse if you are stuck anywhere within tinkling range of the "Water Feature" and have to pay for a non operational, non negotiable facility as well. Incidentally, has it got a (repeatable) name? I hate calling it "The Water Feature".

As for Council Tax, *GIVE ME A BREAK!* When the value of my property has not risen significantly over the last three years, and the council have not demonstrated their commitment to make any gain from the developers on the harbour, I don't expect to pay more than I did last year. Great expectations!

And now, the final grumbles from the crumbles. It's the little things that cheese me off, dog dirt, weeds not attended to, the thoughtlessness of others, (me? I'm perfect,) and the stupid things that could have been avoided, like why are the railings such a cheerful shade of black, or why are

the street lights so awful. Why did the fishermen use balloons instead of brown paper bags at last month's regatta? It was great fun by the way.

When can we have a coffee and newspaper kiosk by the lock gates? There are loads of them a couple of miles away in "proper" Eastbourne.

Have you noticed sinister things happening, like where have the swans gone, and what is behind the fencing at the end of Bermuda Place?

Some very sad things have happened too. Why has the Yacht Club failed to capture the heart of the Harbour?

I wonder, if white vans never stopped moving, would it solve the parking problem?

Parking? This really should come under the heading, "Medical". Since they closed the asylums there are some people about who think that the best parking spaces are on roundabouts, dangerous corners and grass verges. This is doing everyone a favour as it keeps the Accident and Emergency department at DGH busy. Support your DGH! Fall off your bike and be recycled!

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SHIFT_expectations

Oh, and hello, where are our new councillors when they are not having their photographs taken and where did the last ones go after they lost the election?

Stop now, all is well. The Councillors are in place. The council officers are attending to the situation and can "hang their hats on a pension". Why should we worry?..... I guess it's because they are looking after us.

Where you bin? (by Alison Attwood)

In another thrilling instalment of the long-running saga to clean up the harbour, the spotlight this month is on bins.

Council officers are very concerned about low recycling rates and have been talking to SHRA about placing more 'bring' sites around the harbour. SHRA is opposed to this as we believe the area already has accessible recycling sites at Asda and Tesco, and that further depots close to residential homes would bring problems of extra traffic, noise and mess.

But to avoid more bring sites, we must get recycling levels improved. Houses on the harbour should have their own green recycling boxes, but the Council thought the flats may be more of a problem. So Jan Weeks and I conducted a survey of bin stores in apartment blocks across the harbour (we get all the best jobs!) and this is what we found:

1. The vast majority of apartments already have recycling facilities in their bin stores.
2. Most apartments that don't have recycling, do have space for wheelie bins or green boxes.

We have given our report to the Council but, if you live in an apartment without recycling bins or you would like additional bins/boxes, please contact your managing agents who can order these for you.

Unfortunately some bin stores in the South Harbour were in a very poor state with rubbish left in bags on the floor and fly-tipping of beds, furniture and shopping trolleys. We have been working with EBC's contracts manager, SITA and Hazelvine to clear out these bin stores as a one-off measure, but if you know of anyone who is persistently fly-tipping, please contact the Council's Enforcement Team on 415924.

Recycling is not just an issue for flats, and we believe there are many houses where residents are not recycling as much as they could. SITA collects newspaper, glass and cans from your green boxes, and you can take cardboard and plastic bottles to the recycling bins at Asda/Tesco. If you don't have a recycling box, or would like additional boxes, you can order these directly from the council, tel 415229, or use the online order form at www.eastbourne.gov.uk.

And finally, just before we leave the topic of rubbish, can we say a big thank you to all residents and dog owners who are making good use of the new litter bins and dog bins around the marina walkways. These are being well used and emptied regularly by SITA. I hope you will agree that there is a lot less mess around these days. We recognise that there are still some parts of the marina in need of better facilities and we are talking to the Council about getting

additional litter bins installed. We can't have any more dog bins this year due to budget constraints, but it is okay to put reasonable amounts of dog waste in with the litter.

Vet's Football

The Vet's football team are still meeting on Sunday mornings for a 'kick about' throughout the summer. The team has been very popular and players do not want to stop (in case they seize up!!). Players can come as often or as little as they want to- there is no big commitment needed.

Players can be 32- 102!!! - the purpose of the team is to meet people who live on the harbour and get together on a Sunday morning with a group of like minded lads for exercise and a bit of fun (nothing too serious!!) All abilities and fitness levels welcome. We also have social events for players and partners and plan more in the future.

For more information, contact Frank Milmo on 07771-610158
frankmilmo@btinternet.com

Sovereign Harbour Racing Club (by Linus Gunning)

Our visit to Glorious Goodwood on Saturday 25th August was our best event ever. As well as the 'Celebration Mile' there were six further exciting races, and nearly everybody in our party enjoyed some success at finding some winners.

The weather was exceptional; brilliantly sunny from the time we left Eastbourne until we set out on our return journey at about 6:00pm.

Those in our party who had not visited Goodwood for a while found the facilities excellent, with numerous 'eateries' and bars. There were plenty of areas to sit and relax. . . . listening to the Steel Band!!

Not, of course, forgetting the all-seater grandstand from where you have a

view of the whole racecourse and the marvellous Sussex countryside.

We are planning another visit to this wonderful West Sussex racecourse for Goodwood's final day of racing in the 2007 season on Sunday 14th October.

If you would like to join us, contact Linus Gunning on 01323-470757, *without delay*.

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The August meeting of Sovereign Harbour Investment Club - SHICLUB, took place at Madisons's Bar at the Waterfront on Tuesday 28th of August 2007 at 7:00pm with Sam Sweiry in the chair.

Two members have left the harbour. In accordance with the Club Rule, their proportionate share in the Club Ownership have been returned. Two new members joined, and as a result the Club still has nineteen of the twenty members allowed under the constitution.

Next SHICLUB meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th of September at 7:00pm (new venue will be posted to members).

To join the club, e-mail membership.inquiries@shiclub.co.uk or visit their website: www.shiclub.co.uk

Local Action Team

Waterlines readers will probably remember that in the June edition we announced the formation of a Local Action Team (LAT) for Sovereign Harbour. Since then, SHRA committee members have worked with other residents, our ward councillors and the Police to move this initiative forward.

As the discussions progressed, it became more and more obvious that much of the current SHRA activity would be duplicated by a LAT and, more importantly, the harbour as a whole is just too big for a single LAT. Everybody involved has come to the conclusion that the ideal size for a LAT is an individual development.

Fortunately, residents in some areas had already come to that conclusion and had

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been working with the Borough Council and the Police to resolve local issues, mainly concerning anti-social behaviour by a few young people. They had, unintentionally, taken the first steps to creating their own LATs. What is very encouraging is that the actions taken by these residents had gone a long way towards solving the problems they were experiencing.

The SHRA committee will continue to fight hard on all harbour-wide issues and will do whatever it can to support the formation of LATs in individual developments.

If you would like help in forming a LAT, please e-mail: waterlines@shra.co.uk or write to: Waterlines, PO Box 124, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN24 9AW.

Harbour Friends (by Bev Adams)

Harbour Friends is a social group for residents of Sovereign Harbour **ONLY**. We meet on Sunday evenings from 7:15pm in the first floor bar in the Yacht Club. New members are welcome on the LAST Sunday of the month.

More details can be found on our website: www.harbourfriends.co.uk,

E-mail me, Bev at :
bev@harbourfriends.co.uk

or call me on 479797.
We look forward to welcoming you.

Mrs. Molly Sweet (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support)

Curtain Call Musical Productions Presents 'Mrs. Molly Sweet', an original musical, at the Underground Theatre, (under the library in Grove Road - Near Station).

Great score - full of pathos & fun

Adults £7 (OAP's/Child £5)

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Sat October 6th, 7.45pm

Sun October 7th, 2.30pm & 7.45pm

Tickets: Congress Box Office (01323 412000), or on the door.

Strollers and Toners

The Strollers and Toners group meets on Mondays from 2:30 until 3:30 and Thursdays from 9:15 until 10:15, outside Fitness first in the Crumbles Retail Park.

The cost is £2.50 per session.

Everyone is welcome and the sessions usually run on afterwards with drinks and a chat on the harbour.

The Marina Mums gathering is no more, and has evolved and blended with the Strollers and Toners.

Sovereign Harbour Luncheon Club

Sixty two people attended the inaugural meeting of the SH Wednesday Luncheon Club. on 5th September at Frankie & Benny's in the Crumbles Retail Park.

Future meeting of the club will take place at the Harvester on the Waterfront, every Wednesday, starting at 12:30.

There is no annual or joining fees but an administration fee of 50p will be levied at each attendance.

Advanced booking is required, call Sam Sweiry on 01323-479111.

Each meeting will have a guest speaker. For the subjects of future themes, please visit the 'Social Activities' page of the SHRA website: www.shra.co.uk

Who ever came up with "No Pain, No Gain"?

(by Dr Rob Endicott Dental Surgeon, QuaySide Dental Practice at The Waterfront.)

My wife and I are big fans of programs like "10 years younger". It's because of the transformations and what this does for the person's self esteem and confidence. For me, I get particularly interested in how non surgical Facial cosmetic techniques and Cosmetic Dentistry can make a massive difference to a person's whole life.

What makes me cringe though is seeing the pain that some people go through to get this youthful look. I watched a show recently where a young lady was getting her lips done before a wedding and she was in floods of tears. The "experienced" Harley Street nurse had put in a little local anaesthetic under the lip which had very little effect. Rather than reinjecting or giving the proper nerve block, she carried on with the procedure. I felt so sorry for her!

If your dental practice carries out techniques like Restylane then the dentist is able to legally carry out proper nerve blocks. This should make the entire lip numb without causing artificial swelling, which can hide what the cosmetic procedure is trying to achieve. You can even have a topical gel placed first which numbs the injection site so the needle is hardly felt at all.

Then you can have your Restylane carried out Pain Free, like it should be.

If you want to know more, call us on 01323-888088, or check out our website:

www.awesomesmiles.co.uk.

Community Police update (by PC Ed Faulner)

Anti-social behaviour turns really lovely areas to live into a nightmare for everyone in the local area. Sussex Police takes this kind of behaviour very seriously and have launched two initiatives to begin to resolve these problems once and for all.

Firstly **Operation Crackdown** is an initiative to deal with anti-social driving, abandoned vehicles, untaxed vehicles, speeding and other vehicle related annoyances. If you call the telephone number or log onto the site you can give the registration number to them and they will take up the issue with the drivers. I personally have seen the DVLA removal lorry taking away untaxed vehicles so it really does work.

For more information please log onto www.operationcrackdown.org or telephone: 01243 642222.

Next is **Operation Blitz**. This is an Eastbourne initiative to deal with unruly kids on Friday and Saturday nights. A Police van full of PCs and PCSOs are

dedicated to responding to calls from members of the public if anti-social behaviour is happening. When you register you will be sent a mobile phone number which goes directly into the van so that they can come out and resolve the problem. If you would like a registration pack please email me on ed.faulkner@sussex.pnn.police.uk or alternatively leave me a telephone message on 0845 60 70 999 using extension 19768.

By working together we can begin to sort out some of the problems that exist on the harbour.

Sovereign Harbour WI

At the inaugural meeting of the SH Luncheon Club, following a presentation by Mrs Heather Hyrapiet, 32 ladies expressed an interest in forming a SH branch of the WI. A further meeting was held at the Harvester on the Waterfront on 13th September. We will bring you an update in the next issue of Waterlines.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mrs. Hyrapiet on: 01323-416263.